Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 17, 2022

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Board Meeting

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## ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES,

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the School of Health Sciences, College of Health, Science, and

Technology

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the School of Health Sciences in the College of Health, Science, and Technology.

The University Illinois Springfield (UIS) Department of Allied Health prepares students for healthcare careers by engaging students in the classroom and providing hands-on experiences in real world settings. The department, currently located within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, houses three healthcare programs: Athletic Training, Exercise Science, and Medical Laboratory Science.

In a partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), UIS also hosts a regional campus of the UIC College of Nursing, which provides UIS students a pathway to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from UIC on the UIS campus. The UIS Pre-Nursing program is currently a stand-alone program that is not affiliated with a UIS college, although many of the Pre-Nursing courses are currently housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A component of the academic reorganization at UIS, this proposal seeks to unite the Athletic Training, Exercise Science, Medical Laboratory Science, and Pre-Nursing programs into a single administrative unit named the School of Health Sciences (HSC) to be housed in the newly formed College of Health, Science, and Technology, which was established in January of 2022.

Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the HSC is to align undergraduate and graduate academic programs focusing on the preparation of healthcare professionals in one school. This fosters the creative environment of like-minded faculty and provides a solid foundation for exploration of future health-oriented programs.

The HSC will bring together four academic programs requiring similar resources and faculty to serve a unique population of students on our campus. This new structure will capitalize on synergies among existing programs, and is expected to lead to growth in existing professional programs, and to facilitate creation of high demand healthcare programs in conjunction with other units.

The mission of the HSC is to educate highly-qualified health care professionals to be innovative, productive, ethical, and engaged practitioners. The HSC will provide a student-centered educational experience by utilizing enhanced technology and emphasizing active learning in the classroom and clinical settings, evidence-based practices, and empathetic, interdisciplinary, and patient-centered care.

The creation of the HSC is expected to greatly benefit students. Having several health programs in one school and aligning them with the foundational science programs within the new college will allow for enhanced curricular planning and development to better meet students’ curricular needs. Potential shared teaching/laboratory space among the degree programs will provide students a greater diversity of experiences and increased access to experiential learning. In addition, the creation of the HSC will also benefit faculty in several ways. Unifying multiple health care programs in the HSC will encourage faculty collaboration on pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment techniques, and research. The HSC will also allow faculty to participate in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, and to apply for collaborative research funding more easily. Finally, the school model will allow multiple programs to share facilities and resources, allowing lab space and equipment to be utilized by faculty and students across all HSC programs.

Administrative Structure

The HSC will be comprised of about 10 full-time faculty. To maintain distinction and satisfy external accreditors, each program plans to have an Academic Program Coordinator/Director who will report to a School Director. The school structure will improve efficiencies in areas such as course scheduling and purchasing.

As a separate but closely aligned entity, faculty of UIC College of Nursing remain part of UIC, but this arrangement allows the HSC to act as a liaison and provide resources for UIC Faculty while also providing an administrative home for the Pre-Nursing Program and a conduit between the Pre-Nursing Program and the UIC Nursing Program.

The creation of the HSC was voted on by the Curriculum Committee and faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is supported by the Dean. An informal vote of the units proposing to be located in the newly established College of Health, Science, and Technology also supported the creation of the HSC. In addition, this proposal has the support of the UIC College of Nursing, which expressed enthusiasm for the opportunities of partnering with the HSC.

No additional funding is requested to establish the HSC. Additional costs associated with the formation of the School will be provided by administrative cost-savings resulting from the overall academic reorganization.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Interim Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.